

# THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:18-21

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## Introduction:

1. There are many things one might fear (spiders, snakes, etc.)
2. The fear of the Lord promotes healthy spiritual growth.
3. How does the fear of the Lord accomplish this?
4. Three ways the fear of the Lord benefits us are...

## **I. IT IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE**

### **A. WITHOUT FEAR, THERE IS NO RESTRAINT**

1. Without revelation, people cast off restraint -Pr 29:18
2. The absence of fear is the beginning of all evil
  - a. E.g. -the days of the Judges -Ju 17:6; 21:25
  - b. Note the words of Paul -Ro 3:10-18

### **B. PROPER FEAR GUIDES ONE TO RIGHTEOUSNESS**

1. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge -Pr 1:7
2. The fear of the Lord keeps one on the narrow path
  - a. Two paths Jesus discussed -Mt 7:13, 14
  - b. The path of walking in the light -1Jn 1:7

## **II. IT HELPS US OVERCOME EVIL**

### **A. BY DEPARTING FROM EVIL**

1. The consequences of evil
  - a. Wages of sin is death -Ro 6:23
  - b. Those who practice sin are condemned -Ga 5:19-21
2. When one understands true fear -He 10:26-ff
  - a. Fearful judgment -vs. 27
  - b. Worse punishment -vs. 28
  - c. Falling into the hands of God -vs. 31

### **B. BY HATING EVIL -Pr 8:12-14**

1. He who hate evil will abstain from pride -vs. 13
2. He who hates evil will cling to knowledge and discretion
3. He who hates evil will strive to be like Christ -Ep 5:1

## **III. IT LEADS TO ABUNDANT LIVING -Pr 14:26, 27**

### **A. BY PROVIDING STRONG CONFIDENCE**

1. When one does, good there is nothing to fear
  - a. Obeying the laws of the land -Ro 13:3
  - b. As God told Cain -Ge 4:6, 7
2. Christians should have great confidence before God
  - a. Confidence at His appearing -1Jn 2:28
  - b. Clean conscience -1Jn 3:21
  - c. Do not cast away your confidence -He 10:35

### **B. BECAUSE IT IS A FOUNTAIN OF LIFE**

1. It turns one from the snare of death
2. It points one in the direction of life

## Conclusion:

1. Not all fear is bad.
2. The fear of the Lord leads us to eternal salvation in the Lord.